

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a poster child example of the dangers of media consolidation and the improper use of public airwaves by media owners who wish to forward a political agenda. What exactly is the reason for the existence of the FCC if not for preventing such blatant abuses of the media system? REQUIRING outlets to broadcast a movie funded and produced by people with innumerable ties to Republican operatives and Bush election promoters? At the VERY least, it should be viewed as a contribution to the Republican party and fall under equal time provisions. At the very best, it should never even have come up as a possibility over public airwaves, and the owners of Sinclair Broadcasting should be held accountable for such an obvious and blatant attempt to force a gigantic Republican election commercial on a significant fraction of the country.

Sinclair's actions clearly demonstrate our need to strengthen media ownership rules and make the license renewal process more meaningful. It would also be nice if the FCC once again started to do its job. First trying to permit more media consolidation, and now this? We need an FCC that cares about the public's interests, because media owners are obviously looking out for their own. Thank you.